



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

January 19, 2010

ADOPTED

REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

3-P

JANUARY 19, 2010

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
SECRETARY

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT COMPETITIVE AND
CITIES EXCESS FUNDS AND AUTHORIZE AWARD
AND ADMINISTRATION OF EXCESS FUNDS GRANTS
(FIFTH DISTRICT - 3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The recommended actions will award \$1,962,528 in Fifth Supervisorial District Competitive and Cities Excess Funds to 12 cities, County Parks and Recreation, North East Trees and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for trails projects in the Fifth District.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed actions are categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.
2. Find that North East Trees' South Pasadena Nature Park Extension and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps' Sycamore Canyon Restoration and Trails Project are categorically exempt from CEQA in accordance with Sections 15303, 15304, and 15325 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3 and 4 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on November 17, 1987, because the

projects involve new construction of small structures, minor alterations to land and acquisition of areas to preserve open space or lands for park purposes and to preserve existing natural conditions.

3. Allocate Competitive and Cities Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, in the amount of \$1,962,528.54 in the following schedule:

- City of Claremont - \$150,000 for the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park Access Improvements Project
- City of Duarte - \$25,000 for the Fish Canyon Falls Trail Project, Phase II
- City of Glendale - \$123,472 for the Catalina Verdugo Trail Project
- City of Glendora - \$48,736.30 for the South Hills Wilderness Trail Improvement Project
- City of La Canada/Flintridge - \$125,000 for the Cherry Canyon Trails Improvement Project
- City of Lancaster - \$150,000 for the Amargosa Creek Pathway Trail Project
- City of Monrovia - \$149,904.24 for the Monrovia Canyon Park Entrance Trail Project
- City of Palmdale - \$150,000 for the Warnack Nature Park Project
- City of Pasadena - \$150,000 for the Annandale Canyon Trail Access and Improvement Project
- City of San Gabriel - \$150,000 for the Vincent Lugo Park Trail Project, Phase III
- City of Santa Clarita - \$150,000 for the East Walker Ranch Trail System Project
- City of West Covina - \$150,000 for the Cortez Park Trails Extension Project, Phase II
- Department of Parks and Recreation - \$150,000 for the La Crescenta Recreational Trail Link Project
- North East Trees - \$150,000 for the South Pasadena Nature Park Trail Extension Project
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps - \$140,416 for the Sycamore Canyon Restoration and Trails Project.

4. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants for the identified projects when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grants as of the date of award and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects (Procedural Guide).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommendations will allocate \$1,962,528.54 in Competitive and Cities Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for the acquisition, development and/or improvement of real property for trails and public access for the following 15 projects:

Claremont Hills Wilderness Park Access Improvements Project (\$150,000);
Construction of a parking area to accommodate approximately 130 vehicles and 20 bicycles at the public access point at the park.

Fish Canyon Falls Trail Project, Phase II (\$25,000);
Restoration of 1.5 miles of trails on the Fish Canyon Falls Trail.

Catalina Verdugo Trail Project (\$123,472);
Construction of a multi-use trail in the San Rafael Hills at the Glendale Sports Complex. The trail will feature benches, interpretive signage and a 28-foot bridge.

South Hills Wilderness Trail Improvement Project (\$48,736.30);
Construction of a new trail link at the north end of Bonnie Cove Avenue. The project will include two 10-foot rock walls with drought tolerant plants and a graded parking area.

Cherry Canyon Trails Improvement Project (\$125,000);
Improvement and repair of Cerro Negro Trail, Owl Trail, Conservancy Trail, Ultimate Destination Trail and Liz's Loop Trail in Cherry Canyon.

Amargosa Creek Pathway Trail Project (\$150,000);
Improvements to the rest area at the trail including benches with art work, trash receptacles and a drinking fountain.

Monrovia Canyon Park Entrance Trail Project (\$149,904.24);
Construction of a connector trail to access and existing network of trails including interpretive signage, picnic tables, bear-resistant trash containers, lockers and kiosks.

Warnack Nature Park Project (\$150,000);
Development of a trail system within the park including signage and shade structures.

Annandale Canyon Trail Access and Improvement Project (\$150,000);
Construction of new trails, trailhead improvements and a vehicle parking area for trail access.

Vincent Lugo Park Trail Project, Phase III (\$150,000);

Construction of a decorative fence along the Alhambra Wash with grading along the trail to ensure a level surface.

East Walker Ranch Trail System Project (\$150,000);

Development of pre-existing roads and walking paths into a multi-use trail system at East Walker Ranch.

Cortez Park Trails Extension Project, Phase II (\$150,000);

Construction of additional concrete walking trail segments, retaining walls, additional security lighting and the relocation of water sprinklers in the southeastern portion of the park.

La Crescenta Recreational Trail Link Project (\$150,000);

Development of an approximately 1/3-mile long trail featuring intermittent retaining walls, fencing, gates, signage and drainage improvements.

South Pasadena Nature Park Trail Extension Project (\$150,000);

Expansion of the existing park, part of the Arroyo Seco Trail system including a new path, seat wall, interpretive sign, native planting and irrigation.

Sycamore Canyon Restoration and Trails Project (\$140,416);

Re-establishment of an existing trail in the City of Claremont and construction of a 1/2-mile addition to the trail. The project includes the removal of 75 non-native trees to improve the native habitat and enhance the existing watershed in the canyon.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) be authorized to award the grants to the grantees identified, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and to administer the grants pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by your Board.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), Children, Family, and Adult Well-Being (Goal 2), and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3) by allocating Excess Funds for projects to enhance trails and trail access in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of \$1,962,528.54 is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. All of the agencies to be allocated funding in this action meet this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grants would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District from Excess Funds for competitive and city projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved the Procedural Guide on June 2, 2009, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants as well.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009. The Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended projects will enhance recreational opportunities on trails in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of Claremont is the lead agency for the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park Access Improvements Project, the City of Duarte is the lead agency for the Fish Canyon Falls Trail Project, Phase II, the City of Glendale is the lead agency for the Catalina Verdugo Trail Project, the City of Glendora is the lead agency for the South Hills Wilderness Trail Improvement Project, the City of La Canada/Flintridge is the lead agency for the Cherry Canyon Trails Improvement Project, the City of Lancaster is the lead agency for the Amargosa Creek Pathway Trail Project, Phase II, the City of Monrovia is the lead agency for the Monrovia Canyon Park Entrance Trail Project, the City of Palmdale is the lead agency for the Warnack Nature Park Project, the City of Pasadena is the lead agency for the Annandale Canyon Trail Access and Improvement Project, the City of San Gabriel is the lead agency for the Vincent Lugo Park Trail Project, the City of Santa Clarita is the lead agency for the East Walker Ranch Trail System Project, the City of West Covina is the lead agency for the Cortez Park Trails Extension Project, Phase II, and the County of Los Angeles is the lead agency for the La Crescenta Recreational Trail Link Project.

The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) is the lead agency for North East Trees' South Pasadena Nature Park Trail Extension Project and for Los Angeles Conservation Corps' Sycamore Canyon Restoration and Trails Project.

The proposed projects are categorically exempt from CEQA according to Sections 15303, 15304 and 15325 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3 and 4 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on November 17, 1987, because the projects involve new construction of small structures, minor alterations to land and acquisition of areas to preserve open space or lands for park purposes and to preserve existing natural conditions.

The recommended administrative actions proposed by RPOSD are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

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CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,



Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPOCEDISTRICT(5TH DISTCOMP GRANTS 2009 BL)

c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors